

to attract to his court.^x Thus he drew into his service a galaxy of the ablest men in Europe: the kingdom rose out of the labours of George of Antioch, of Robert of Selby, of Thomas Brown, and their named or nameless colleagues. Again, the institutions, the governmental skill of Constantinople, Cairo, Rouen were his to select from, in a realm full of Greeks, Moslems, and Latins.

The problem which faced every country in Europe, especially where feudalism had taken deep root, was that of connecting the "local with the central government. Charles the Great's *mis si dominici* had not solved the question for long; and the fragments into which his Empire had fallen, the kingdoms of France and Germany, had not yet evolved a royal power strong enough to thrust aside the powerful vassals of the Crown and bring the provincial government and the common subject into touch with the Crown and its justice. Henry the First of England, indeed, showed the way with his itinerant justices, but tentatively and temporarily. Among the kingdoms of the West, Sicily was to be the first in the organising of a governmental and administrative system which, commencing with a

strong nucleus
of power, allowed no feudal or provincial
power to
interpose between the Crown and the
common sub-
jects of the Crown.

We shall see what the local
government was at
the accession of Roger and then after
a sketch of

¹ Del Rfe, pp. 286-7.